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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Engineer Exercises in the Area of the First Gds Mecz Army

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 August 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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2. Twelve trucks towing 12 x 122-mm field howitzers left Camp Zeithain (1901) within the framework of an exercise with which the preparations on the Elbe River were presumably connected. The howitzers were emplaced in a width of approximately 300 meters about 1.5 km. northeast of Camp Zeithain, pointing toward the camp.

3. At about 1230, 5 T-54 tanks, 2 M-3 armored personnel carriers, and four-seat sedan proceeded via Lichtensee and the training grounds, presumably toward the Elbe River. At the same time, an additional 6 T-54 tanks, 3 M-3 armored personnel carriers, and 1 repair-shop truck passed the "Haidehaeuser". This column came from the direction of Tiefenau and proceeded toward the Elbe River. Imprints of tracks indicated that this road had already previously been used by tracklaying vehicles, probably the unit which left the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) in Riesa on 25 July. The unit from Riesa crossed the Elbe River in the late afternoon and returned to the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne from the direction of Wittenberg during the night. This was surmised from fresh imprints of tracks of T-54s which were observed in the early morning on 28 July.

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4. At about 1400 on 28 July, an amphibious vehicle of US-Ford make, [redacted] went from Riesa to the engineer training site south of Muehlberg. 1
5. Between 24 July and 6 August, the occupation of the barracks installations of the Grimma post changed continually. At short intervals, the units left for 1 to 4 days for the Pommers-Otterwisch post training grounds.
6. The Nagema installation [redacted] was temporarily occupied by an engineer unit which practiced bridge construction over the Mulde River south of Grimma. The unit wore blue-bordered black epaulets. At 1600 on 27 July, the unit left the installation and was entrained at the Grimma Ostbahnhof. The shipment which included 20 three-axle trucks with pontoons, 1 truck towing a motorboat, and 1 additional truck left toward Gross-Bothen at 1700. 2
1. [redacted] Comment. The exercise which extended over the Zeithain training grounds from east to west involved the following units of the 9th Tank Div. from the Riesa post: elements of the 108th Tank Regt and the 116th (?) AAA Regt and, probably, the 286th Engr Bn. The departure of tanks and AA guns in the morning of 25 July was previously reported.
2. [redacted] Comment. The direction of departure of the engineer shipment tends to indicate that the practices on the Mulde River involved elements of the u/1 Engr Regt of the First Gds Mecz Army from Dresden-Subissa, which were temporarily stationed in the Nagema. [redacted] the loading of the 155d Gds Engr Bn of the 8th Gds Mecz Div. permanently quartered in the Elsner Kaserne (1401) in Grimma appears improbable. The Nagema adjoins the Elsner Kaserne to the south.

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